

REMARKS

Claims 16-19, 21-24, and 26-33 are pending in the application. Claims 1-15, 20, and 25 have been canceled. Claim 23 is provisionally withdrawn as a result of an election requirement. New claims 32 and 33 are directed to Figure 1, and associated Figures 2 to 8, and thus are directed to the elected subject matter.

The Applicants and the Applicants' representative sincerely appreciate the interview which was conducted on March 14. An Examiner Interview Summary has been entered in the file. By way of this amendment, the claims have been amended to further define the invention, as discussed at the interview.

The status of the applications on pages 1 and 4 have been updated, as requested by the Examiner.

Claims 16-22 and 24-31 stand rejected under § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. The claims have been amended to overcome this rejection.

The claims stand rejected under § 102 and/or § 103 as being unpatentable over Bott '139, Nilsson '342, and Ingram '501.

By way of this amendment, the claims have been amended to recite that the fitting includes a first tie-down catch projecting outward from the main body and a second tie-down catch projecting outward from the main body in a direction opposite to the direction of the first tie-down catch, wherein the main body and the first and second catches define a cleat shape.

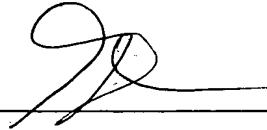
Because such an arrangement is not disclosed or suggested by Bott '139, Nilsson '342, and Ingram '501, the amended claims are clearly patentable over these documents.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone if it is felt that a telephone interview would advance the prosecution of the present application.

Respectfully submitted,

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By

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Glenn Law', written over a horizontal line.

FOLEY & LARDNER LLP
Customer Number: 22428
Telephone: (202) 672-5426
Facsimile: (202) 672-5399

Glenn Law
Attorney for Applicant
Registration No. 34,371